



*The
Hall of Fame
for
Great Americans
1901-1976*

Jerry Grundfest
Executive Director

January 10, 1977

William D. Conklin
P.O. Box 456
Dansville, New York 14437

Dear Mr. Conklin:

Thank you for the clipping from the Democrat and Chronicle. We are pleased to know of your interest in Clara Barton and the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

We are also gratified by your efforts at raising public awareness of what is involved in inducting a Great American into the Hall of Fame, and specifically, what will be required to see Miss Barton properly enshrined.

If we receive positive follow-up to your letter, we shall let you know at once. Your corrections have been duly noted and appreciated.

Thanks again for your help.

Yours truly,

Lenore Cooney
Ass't to the Executive
Director



2 Washington Square Village
New York, New York 10012
Telephone: (212) 533-4450

Hall of Fame Colonnade on the Campus of Bronx Community College, CUNY

WILLIAM D. CONKLIN
P. O. BOX 456
DANVILLE, N. Y. 14437

January 5, 1977

Ms. Lenore Cooney
Assistant to the Executive Director
The Hall of Fame for Great Americans
2 Washington Square Village
New York, N.Y. 10012

Dear Ms. Cooney:

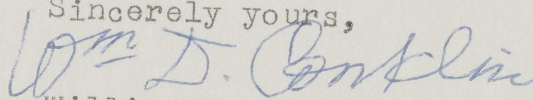
Since you were so courteous as to acknowledge a clipping on Clara Barton's election to the Hall of Fame, I think you may like to have another. So that you may see it in relation to the editorial page where the letter appeared, I am sending the entire page. The Democrat and Chronicle is Rochester's one morning paper, with a large circulation in the area as well as in the city. Like the Times-Union (afternoon paper), it is one of the Gannett Co. papers.

Originally, the letter contained five more paragraphs (short ones). I did not intend it to be published--in fact, wrote it single-spaced when double-spacing is desired for such use--but I do not object! My purpose was to enlist the good offices of Mr. Stone, the editor of the Editorial Page, in eliminating from the D&C files the strange statement about Clara Barton's trip to Rochester from Danville "by horse-drawn vehicle." I think it appeared once before, years ago.

To be sure of my ground, I wrote the Library of Congress and received word that Miss Barton's diary entries in October 1881 began on the 8th. It was suggested that I try the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., which has a remarkable library. I did, and received the same reply. There seems to be no authority for the statement.

Of course, we hope that some "benevolent millionaire" will show up, sometime, to provide the funds necessary for installation of a bust and plaque. If I had thought that the letter might be published, I would have given the address of your office. If you should receive any inquiries of an encouraging sort, we would be very glad to hear.

By the way, I am not "President of American Red Cross Chapter No. 1," but I was a Director and Public Information Chairman for many years, and I still keep in touch with the Chapter.* Since I was familiar with earlier efforts to place Clara Barton in the Hall of Fame, I was glad to continue the correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Conklin

*The presiding officer of Clara Barton Chapter No. 1 is known as Chairman.